

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 01891 01 OF 02 061329Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-07 MCT-01 DHA-02 IO-13 /102 W

-----061349Z 082871 /50

O P 061251Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1867

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1891

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE CONCERNS OVER IMPLICATIONS SOVIET-ETHIOPIA
RELATIONS

SUMMARY: ACTING FONMIN DENG SUMMONED ME JUNE 6 TO
EXPRESS CONCERN OVER DETERIORATION SUDAN-USSR RELATIONS.

CITING TASS REPORT WHICH ALLEGES SUDANESE AGRESSION

AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND SUDANESE TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA,

DENG DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS AND SAID HE BELIEVES

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 01891 01 OF 02 061329Z

THEY FORESHADOW INTENSIFICATION SOVIET SUPPORT FOR

ETHIOPIA WHICH MAY RESULT IN MORE RECKLESS ACTION

BY EPMG. HE STRESSED SUDAN HAS NO INTENTION ENTERING

ETHIOPIA MILITARILY BUT IT WILL DEFEND ITS BORDERS.

DENG REQUESTED US ANALYSIS SOVIET INTENTIONS IN REGION.

END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING FONMIN FRANCIS DENG SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE JUNE 6; I WAS ONE OF SEVERAL CHIEFS OF MISSION TO BE CALLED IN TODAY. DENG'S PURPOSE WAS TO CONVEY OFFICIAL SUDANGOV CONCERN OVER DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH USSR, AND TO EXPLAIN THAT SUDANGOV FEARS USSR WILL INTENSIFY ITS SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AND THAT THIS MAY LEAD TO RECKLESS ACTION BY EPMG. DENG REFERRED TO BBC BROADCAST MORNING JUNE 6 WHICH REPORTED TASS STATEMENT ALLEGING SUDANESE AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA. TASS REPORT ALSO CLAIMED SUDANESE TROOPS WERE PRESENT IN ETHIOPIA.

2. DENG SAID THERE WAS NOT RPT NOT ONE SINGLE SUDANESE SOLDIER IN ETHIOPIA. SUDAN HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION OF ENTERING ETHIOPIA MILITARILY, HOWEVER IT WILL DEFEND ITS BORDERS SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY. DENG SAID THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SUDANESE-SOVIET RELATIONS, I.E., EXPULSION SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS AND DIPLOMATS FROM SUDAN, AS WELL AS ALLEGATIONS SUDAN AGGRESSION WILL BE USED AS A PRETEXT BY SOVIETS TO EXPAND THEIR ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA. HE FEARS THAT THIS WILL LEAD AND ALLOW ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE RECKLESS ACTION AGAINST SUDAN WHICH COULD THREATEN SUDAN.

3. DENG ASKED FOR USG INTERPRETATION OF SOVIET INTENTIONS. TWICE DURING CONVERSATION HE STRESSED THAT SUDANESE CONCERN, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE STATED PUBLICLY PROBABLY AFTERNOON JUNE 6, IS NOT RPT NOT A TACTIC TO OBTAIN US ARMS. RATHER, IT STEMS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 01891 01 OF 02 061329Z

FROM GENUINE CONCERN OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN COOPERATION. DENG ADDED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, AND IN GENERAL SUDANGOV SUPPORTS USG EFFORTS REDUCE TENSIONS WITH USSR. HOWEVER, SUDANGOV FEELS DIRECTLY AND IMMEDIATELY THREATENED BY SOVIETS AND ITS DE FACTO ALLIES, LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA, AND HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT SHOULD SUDANESE DO IN FACE OF THIS IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT THREAT WHILE USG AND SOVIETS WORK OUT THEIR EFFORTS AT DETENTE. DENG MADE IT CLEAR THAT SUDANGOV DOES NOT RPT NOT TRUST SOVIETS AND HE DESCRIBED SOVIET POLICY IN REGION AS QUOTE AMORAL UNQUOTE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1891

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

4. I PROMISED TO REPORT DENG'S DEMARCHE IMMEDIATELY
TO DEPARTMENT. I SAID THAT I PREFERRED NOT TO COMMENT
DIRECTLY TO HIS PRESENTATION, BUT I REVIEWED FOR
HIM RECENT SOVIET STATEMENTS ON SUDAN BASED ON FBIS
AND EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTING. AFTER LISTENING TO ME,
DENG SAID THAT HE BELIEVES US IS MORE CALM ABOUT
SITUATION THAN SUDANESE, AND HE SAID THAT IN FACT
SOVIETS HAD REACTED VERY STRONGLY IN PRIVATE TO RECENT
MEASURES TAKEN BY SUDANGOV AGAINST THEM.
HE EXPLAINED THAT FUDANMENTAL REASON FOR EXPULSION
OF SOVIETS WAS THAT THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE IN
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 01891 02 OF 02 061334Z

SUDAN IN SENSITIVE POSITIONS WAS UNTENABLE
GIVEN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: SUDANESE ARE

BECOMING JITTERY OVER EXPECTED ANTI-SUDAN REACTION
BY SOVIETS TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE. THEY WOULD
VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE US ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET
INTENTIONS IN REGION, AND DEPARTMENT REQUESTED
CABLE SUCH AN ASSESSMENT SOONEST FOR ME TO
DISCUSS WITH DENG. AS INDICATED IN KHARTOUM 1731
(NOTAL) SUDANESE HAVE BEGUN TO FEEL THREATENED
POLITICALLY BY SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN-LIBYAN GROUP
AND NO DOUBT WOULD LIKE AS MUCH POLITICAL SUPPORT
FROM US AS POSSIBLE. TO SOME EXTENT THIS HAS BEEN
PROVIDED RECENTLY DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
VISIT. SUDANESE RECOGNIZE DESIRE BY USG TO REFRAIN
FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN REGIONAL SQUABBLES, BUT
THEY FEAR THAT US MAY BE OVERLY PASSIVE IN LIGHT
SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN REGION. IF POSSIBLE
WHEN I BRIEF DENG ON OUR ANALYSIS OF SITUATION, IT
CERTAINLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF I COULD CONVEY
AS WELL SOME EXPRESSION OF USG POLITICAL SUPPORT
FOR SUDAN.
BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO01891
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770200-1143
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770688/aaaacyxt.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2265985
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUDANESE CONCERNS OVER IMPLICATIONS SOVIET-ETHIOPIA RELATIONS SUMMARY: ACTING FONMIN DENG SUMMONED ME
JUNE 6 TO
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU, UR, US, (DENG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b80b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009